

THE MAKING OF OUR UNION JACK

1707 TO 1801

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FIRST ACT

The Interior of the English Parliament, 1706. To the right the Tories. The left the Wigs. In the center sits the Premier. With him are the representatives of the Scotch Parliament. The Clerk is on his feet as the curtain goes up.

At a sign from the Premier he commences to read:—We, the English Parliament of 1706.

To our Gracious Sovereign, Queen Ann, and Parliament here assembled: We have met together to ratify the agreement made with the Scotch Parliament at our last Session. (Sits down).

(Rising the Scottish leader says):

We, the Scots, retain our old Scotch laws. The Presbyterian Church remains the National Church of Scotland. And we receive equal benefits in coin and commerce (tapping paper with finger) as stated herein, pausing, then continues: On those conditions we, Scotland, will acknowledge Queen Ann's successor as our lawful Sovereign, and give up our Flag of St. Andrew, *to form a new Banner*, also dissolving the Scotch Parliament, and send 40 representatives to the British (Parliament) House of Commons, and 16 Elective Peers to the House of Lords. (Sits down).

English leader: This has been agreed on and is recorded. It only needs her Gracious Majesty's consent. (Sits down).

The Scottish leader rising, says: It yet remains how this new Banner is to be made.

You, the English, claim to be the oldest nation, that your cross of St. George is the oldest.

We, the Scots, can trace our occupation of this Island a thousand years before the Roman nation conquered the south part of this Island. You, the English, have only lived on this Island 13 hundred years. How can your Cross of St. George be the oldest. (Sits down).

(From the English rises one who has long white beard) says: We, the Welsh, have inhabited this Island as long as thou the Picts, as thou was then called. Our claim to be the oldest on the Banner is this:— Holds out a small White Flag with a red cross on it X (holding it in his hands continues): At the time the disciples of our Lord were founding the Church at Jerusalem and Antioch, the Romans were invading Britain, we the Welsh inhabited, what is now called England. Our people fought bravely, but the Romans conquered us, and from Jerusalem the story of the redemption on the Cross came to us. Our

Druid Priests had a written language, but the people none ; hence the symbol of the Cross. The cross was used in times of the greatest persecution in this way. If one in hiding or in trouble could send a message to his friends he was confirmed in the faith ; he would send two pieces of wood, one shorter than the other ; when fitted together formed the cross, thus was one able to strengthen another in the faith. St. George lived in the last part of the third century, he carried the cross openly and was slain for his bravery. This was in the reign of the Roman Governor Constantine, and when Constantine succeeded his father in 306 he accepted Christianity and had the symbol of the cross placed on a banner and carried ahead of his Army. It was called George II. Cross because he, St. George, was the first to carry the Cross openly in Britain. (Lying down the cross he turns to the Scots saying : Is my claim to the oldest cross established.) All of the English and the Welsh stand up. (The Scots rise also.) The Leader says : We, the representatives of Scotland, acknowledge your claim is just. We ask that the foundation of the new Banner be the Blue of our Flag, then our White Cross of St. Andrew. The Cross of St. George be laid on top of our St. Andrew Cross.

English and Welsh (we agree and sit down.)

The Welsh Peer (white beard) stands up saying: England, thou art divided in three Parties. Those that are loyal to our Gracious Queen Ann ; those that call themselves Jacobites who wish King James' sons on the throne, and we Welsh.

You, the Scotch, are divided in two Parties. Those that wish for a separate Kingdom, and those that call themselves Jacobites.

All in England claim and love the Banner of St. George. You in Scotland love your Banner of St. Andrew. Thus in uniting the two Crosses in our Banner unites two nations. The Unionist with the Jacobites (raising his hand) thus our new Banner shall be called : *Our Union Jack*. Peace be ours.

Curtain.

All in this scene wear wigs and gowns of the time 1706.

ACT 2.

Curtain goes up reveals Queen Ann seated before a table, on which is spread the Papers she is to sign. Standing at both sides of her are the English, Welsh and Scots.

Also her maids in waiting.

The Queen pretends she is reading the document, her Secretary dips a long feather pen in the ink and hands it to her Majesty, who signs the document. All stand for space of a minute, then

Curtain.

ACT 3.

The interior of an English home, 1707. Family assembled—Grand-mother, mother, 3 boys, 3 girls, they have songs, also dance. Sir Roger de Coverly. As the dance is through, enters Father (who is a soldier) saying: The union with Scotland takes place tomorrow when the new Unionjack is made. The Blue Blanket of St. Andrew flag with the White Cross forms the foundation. Our Cross of St. George with white margin is laid on top, this will be our new Banner. Our Soldiers will be proud of the new Banner. (Son) When is a soldier the bravest? (Father) When he puts aside self, and God and duty first. (Son) What is a Soldiers duty father? (Father) To obey without question the commands given him. (Son) Even unto death father. (Father) Yes my son even unto death. (Son) Then the English soldier has been the help in building up England; the Scottish soldier, Scotland; the Irish soldier, Ireland; and when they all unite under one Flag our Britain will be the greatest Empire in the world, will she not father. (Father) Yes my son, the greatest and the best, under the unity of the Crosses. For God, for freedom, for honor, for peace, our Britain will stand the highest in the world, and shall set an example for justice on sea and land, to all nations under heaven. Curtain.

ELIZA WINTER,

Feb. 25th, 1911.

Stratford, Ontario.

ACT 4.

The interior of Scottish home, 1707. Assembled—Mother and family. They have dancing and songs. As they are through the song the father enters with the Blue Flag of St. Andrew held in his hand (drooped to staff) says to wife: Well lass for a year we have held back in giving up our Cross since it was decided on, but to-morrow the ceremony takes place. Mother gets up, goes to the Flag saying: How can we give thee up our Bonnie St. Andrew. For a thousand years thou has led our brave army to the battle, all the Scots would follow thee. Many a time I have gone to the brow of the hills looking (shading eyes with hand) for thy coming back. I have seen thee when thou looked like a bird hastening home, when thou came nearer and the breeze would hold thee out and thy white cross would appear, then a grip would hold my heart (lying hand over heart) were my laddies with thee. Once when thou came home thou left my Bonnie Willie behind thee; but they told me that before they laid him under the sod they spread thy folds over him. We love thee St. Andrew, as only the Scotch can love their own. Two hundred years from now the Scots will almost have forgotten thee, but later they will remember and will love thee in thy new place. They will also remember that a true heart makes a brave heart.

(Father) But lass its good company our St. Andrew will have in the new Banner. The two Crosses joined make unity, strength and peace. Curtain.

ACT 5.

Enter the men to form the union of 1707, carrying 2 flags. England carrying the White Flag with the Cross of St. George X red; Scotland the Blue Flag with Cross of St. Andrew, white X (both flags are wired out and can be drooped to staff); on one side the crosses are sewn on, the other side the crosses are made so they can be taken off, just attached to the flag with stickers made for the purpose. All the men march in together. On the platform stands an easel facing the audience. The men stand and await the coming of Queen Ann and her ladies in waiting. Then the flag-maker turns to St. Andrew saying: Give me a bit of thy blue blanket St. Andrew (takes the piece prepared off the flag), lays it on easel; then says: Thy cross also St. Andrew, lays the white cross corner to corner on the easel over the blue. Then turns to St. George says: Give me thy cross St. George, that all nations may see the sign of the redemption, lays that over St. Andrew's cross. This forms the flag of 1707. Then the two look at the new flag, clasp hands, both go together, kneel down before Queen Ann, kiss her hand, rise, go England to right, Scotland to the left, behind her chair hoist the flag of 1707, the English stand on one side, the Scotch on the other, saying: Long live our good Queen Ann.

Curtain.

ACT 6.

The interior of an Irish home, 1801. In this they entertain mother, son and daughter, also others. Enters father, saying: News for you my children, this month, Jan. 1801, we are uniting with Britain, giving up our cross of St. Patrick, to be laid on the cross of St. Andrew. Our cross of St. Patrick will make the new flag bloom like the Shamrock. Three in one, never to be divided. St. Patrick for ever, cheers. (Son says) Father, tell me the story of St. Patrick's cross, why did he use the red cross on a white field. (Father) Listen my son, in the year 432 there came to our shores a wonderful man, he landed where the town of Wicklow now stands, so earnest was his speaking that our people listened to him, as he told them of the vision he had when a boy, that he should bring the story of the cross to us. The red for blood shed on the cross, the white for purity. (Son) Father, why did he change the shape of the cross? That I cannot tell you, my son, but this was its shape in the 8th century when our Chief King, Brian Boru, lived in Tera Hall. He loved this cross above all else, his followers would follow it to death if need be. (Son) But father, when the new flag is made and comes home to Ireland it will have 3 crosses on it. (Father) Yes my son. (Son) Then we will be sure to have the right cross, and St. Patrick will have his own again. Curtain.

Stay, the voice comes from the back, I would speak to you of St. Patrick, I would describe him to you, (comes forward) an aged one comes to the front of the room stands, saying: Allow me to pull aside the curtain of time and show you the people as St. Patrick found them,

this is thirteen hundred and sixty-eight years ago—draws aside a curtain (showing) some dark men and boys dress party in furs, coats without sleeves, the coat coming to their knees, sandle to match, large clubs in their hands, wigs on to represent long hair, he draws to the curtain after the men have been seen.

Enters one who represents time.

I am time. I stand on a cliff of an Island green, I stand facing the East, the sun is near to earth, the blaze of its glory brightens the sea before me showing more plainly the green of the moving water. I turn me about to the west, oh how beautiful the land, then I look at the wonderous sun lighting all things on earth, sky and sea (raising hand) and I seem to hear the Almighty's voice at the creation, let there be light, and there was light.

Thousands of years pass by. I stand near the dessert of Judea. I hear the people which sat in darkness saw great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. I hear John the Baptist say: I am sent to bear witness of that light.

Again: Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature, beginning first at Jerusalem.

Harken! (raising hand).

Voices I hear in human tongue,
I turn again to the sea, the east,
A boat is rounding into the bay
Where the waters are calm and still;
I count the men, thirteen all told,
As one by one they step from the boat
And haul her onto the shore.
Then the twelve gather round their leader
They all kneel down to pray.

I gaze in the face of the leader
As with uplifted hands he prays.
Into his face there shines the light,
The light which God's spirit gives.
He asks the Lord for His blessing
On the work he has come to do.
He asks that light may be given
To those he has come to teach
God's laws on this earthen Isle.

I look as they rise and onward move,
I know their leader, ah yes, I have seen
Succath Patricians on the Isle to the east
Where his father's friend, Ninian, I've seen
On this same mission, Succath has come.
Let us follow on with the moving men
Through the lovely glades to the haunts of men.
Look! In his hands he bears aloft
A symbol, can it—yes, it is a cross.

To Chief Sinell and his wild clan
 I see him talking, pleading, telling.
 His face, ah me, what a light of love
 Is as his features shining, glowing,
 As pointing upward, then points to
 Those rude men standing around their Chief
 They shake their heads in unbelief.
 Succath stoops and gathers from the grass
 Holds out to view a three-leaved Shamrock.

A change passes over the face of Sinell, the Druid leader watching comes forward chanting off transmigration of the souls of men, of fire, earth and water, of the oak and the misletoe, of the human propitiatory sacrifices he had given Sinell, waved him back, begone to thy graves, I worship thy Gods no longer. He takes the cross of George from Patricius' hand saying : I accept the one who died on the cross *for me*. I thank thee thou man from Britain time. Curtain.

Let me show you some of the people St. Patrick left, from the distance come the boys singing. (Choose the Psalm).

ACT 7.

Enter the men to form the union, 1801.

Enter England and Scotland, (Britain) carrying the flag of 1707. Ireland carrying St. Patrick's flag, white with red cross X. The flag and crosses are fixed same as the others. The men of the sea, usually six, all come together. The easel is on the platform with the crosses of 1707 on it. The flag-maker lays back the cross of St. George, turns to St. Patrick says : "Give me thy cross St. Patrick, though thou hast changed the shape it still stands for the sign." Takes the red cross, lays it on the cross of St. Andrew, then lays back the cross of St. George, thus forming the Union Jack of 1801. Then the three, two Britains and Ireland come forward, laying down their flags. (The crosses have been taken off). Stand Scotland to the right, Ireland to the left corner of easel, England in centre. Scotland says, "Cross of St. Andrew, thy true Scottish sons will follow thee on devotedly for the unity as they followed thee when thou led them singly to the battle." "Ireland, cross of St. Patrick, which all the descendants of the great Brian Boru valued above their hearts blood, as thou art here placed we give thee our reverent devotion and will follow thee to death or victory in war." Scotland and Ireland clasp hands just over the centre of St. George's cross X. England laying his hand just over the centre of the other two says :

"With the cross of St. George I bind our unity which never shall be broken. We are brothers and from this time shall be called Brittons." Stand half minute, then the three step backward, (easel is removed) and the flag of 1801 is ready to hoist up. Curtain. The verses on the crosses are recited.

(Shake out the folds of our crosses.)

ACT 8.

Shake out to the breeze the crosses that all the world may see,
Shake out the folds of our banner that tell all men are free;
Spread out to the breeze the message, the story our crosses tell,
The story of our redemption, the cross of our Emanuel.

The cross has come down through the ages,
On the banner of Britain kept
To nourish in the soldier's heart
The message its crosses tell.
Spread out to the world our banner
That all tyrants may know
That Britains honor stands for the right
Wherever our crosses go.

Hold out to the light the crosses
That make all wrongdoers flee,
But give hope and strength to the helpless
Our beautiful flag of the free.
To the wounded soldier the flag gives cheer,
To the dying soldier its meaning is clear,
For the breeze holds out the crosses,
The crosses point to the sky.

The large Union Jack is hoisted as these are finished. Then the men salute the flag saying, "One God, one King, one Flag, one Language." Stand under its folds and sing one of the national songs. Then come the provinces. First, New Foundland. Salute the Union Jack and say: "Britain, I am thy oldest province. Accept the loyal devotion of New Foundland.

Britain—"New Foundland, I greet you. When the motherland calls for thee, truly will thou give thine aid." Salutes, places flag on the staff of Britian.

Second—Australia. Received constitution 1850. Commonwealth 1901 Oldest provinces, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland and West Australia, Victoria and South Australia, (Speech) "Britain Australia gives thee loyal devotion. None of thy colonies are more loyal. None love the Union Jack as well as we None love Britain or honor more." (Britain) "I greet thee my loyal Australia. Thou art true to thy king and flag." Place flag on staff of Britain.

New Zealand- Constitution 1850. Wellington 1839, Auckland 1840 Nelson 1841, Alago 1843, Canterbury 1850, Norfolk 1850.

Speech—Britain, We come to express our loyalty to our motherland (Britain) "New Zealand, I greet you. Thou art well named for zealous thou hast ever been." Salute. Place flags on Britains staff.

India, British Empire, 1850, B9, 1c., 10.

Madras, Bombay, Bengal, Argo, Punjaub, Oudt, Burmah, Assam, Eastern Bengal. All carry Pennants with name of each province on X.

The officer is British, carries Union Jack, makes speech to Britain, then salutes the flag. The Hindoos salute, bow, place their Pennants around the staff of Britain, take their places.

Then comes Canada in white, the oldest provinces, first constitution (two flag bearers) 1840; confederation, 1867; Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. Two flag bearers go first, carrying Canadian flags with streamers, then Canada in white with crown of maple leaves, maple leaves on her dress, following are the 9 Provinces and 4 Territories. Provinces carry flags with name of each province on them. When they get to platform they sing the "Maple Leaf Forever," only in the chorus they use union jack instead of maple leaf. When the song is over they stand in rank at foot of stage. Canada salutes Britain saying: "I salute thee Mighty Britain, in peace will I obey thee, in war defend thee." (Britain): "Canada, finest and fairest of my colonies, I greet you; knowest thou the meaning of the flag thy bearers carry. Look at the red cross, it means freedom. At the white, purity and honor. At the blue, truth. Its color was copied from the Heavens. Look at the red the flag part, it means the blood of your ~~grandfathers~~ *fore* ~~paid~~ *owed* out for your possession of thy goodly land, Canada, where thou dwellest in peace. Honor the flag and ye are Brittons still. Then Canada turns to her colonies saying: "Provinces of confederation—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, come forward." They come forward, salute and say to Britain, "We are the children of thy daughter, Canada. May we never stain the honor of the Flag committed to our keeping." They salute, place their flags in staff, take their places. Then Manitoba 1870, British Columbia 1871, Prince Edward Island 1873, Alberta and Saskatchewan 1906. Then the territories all salute, place their flags, take their places.

Then comes South Africa, 1910, 4B, 1c., 5.

Cape Town, Natal, Orange River, Vaal River. All carry flags. They all say: "Britain, thou greatest of nations, most generous of foes, accept our loyal devotion, when we look at the Union Jack we will remember.

(Britain): "Africa, I give you greeting, above all thy wealth of gold and precious stones. Value above all the banner committed to your keeping, it meaneth much and ye will do well." Africa salutes, place their flags in the staff of Britain, take their places. All say: "One God, one King, one Flag, one Language." Then all stand at salute and sing God Save the King.

Curtain.

All carry flags, no emblems on, only Union Jack. So all are made for this play. The Canadian flag is the red flag attached to the Union Jack. The other colonies carry the same, with the exception of India. As they are non-christians nor self-governing they carry pennants. The officer carries the Union Jack of Britain. All but India wear red, white and blue sashes from shoulder, and the Hindoos wear white turbans and sashes of red around their waist.

